



State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board

Public Minutes

September 19, 2014

Legislative Office Building Room 101

Members present: Susan Duncan, Chairwoman, Alan Cantor, Dave Robbins, Betsy Paine, Master Henrietta Luneau

Members Absent: Chris Keating, Senator David Pierce, Representative Deanna Rollo, David Villiotti

Chairwoman Duncan called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

1. Introduction of New Member

Chairwoman Duncan introduced the new member Betsy Paine who is representing CASA.

2. Chapter 400 Rules

There was discussion over the wording and definition of Reinstatement. It was explained that re-certification was removed because the 90 days after expiration rule is confusing. If a certification has been revoke the person must wait three years in order to reapply again. There was discussion as to whether the revoke person should be in reinstatement or apply again as new since it has been over 3 years.

The question was brought up that if we require them to take the full training over again is the Board required to hold a training. It was explained that there is no constitutional right that everyone has the right to be a GAL as soon as possible.

It was decided that Board staff would review the rules and try to solve this reinstatement, revocation matter. They would also look into whether or not the Board can have a rule allowing them to waive the rules for certain applicants.

No decisions were made about Chapter 400. Board staff was going to research some of the questions asked and get back to the Board at a later date for a vote.

3. Public Comment

There was no public present.

4. Review Minutes

July 18, 2014 Sub-Committee Public: B. Paine made a motion to approve the minutes. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 3-0-2 B. Paine and D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

July 18, 2014 Full Board Public: M. Luneau made a motion to approve the minutes. S. Duncan seconded. Vote: 3-0-2 B. Paine and D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

September 5, 2014 Sub-Committee Public: B. Paine made a motion to approve the minutes. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 3-0-2 B. Paine and D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

September 15, 2014 Sub-Committee Public: M. Luneau made a motion to approve the minutes. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 2-0-3 A. Cantor, B. Paine and D. Robbins abstaining. Motion passes.

5. GAL Statistics as of September 19, 2014

- a. 89 Certified GALs
 - i. 2 are no longer accepting appointments
 - ii. 3 are temporary for the purpose of completing an appointment
 - iii. Technically, there are 84 Certified GALs able & willing to serve.
- b. 1 GALs expired in September
- c. 3 GALs are still within the 90 day re-certification period
- d. 60 GALs are certified in Family Division
- e. 69 GALs are certified in District Court
- f. 86 GALs are certified in Superior Court
- g. 75 GALs are certified in Probate Court

6. Board Actions & Updates

- a. HB1343
House Bill 1343 relative to Guardian ad Litem fees was signed into law by Governor Hassan on August 1, 2014. It will become effective as of September 30, 2014. All Certified GALs have been emailed and it has been put on the Board's website.
- b. Recycle Plan
The Board reviewed the State Recycling Form for 2014 that was submitted.
- c. Energy Plan
The Board reviewed the State Energy Plan for 2014 that was submitted.
- d. Forms
Governor Hassan signed an executive order requesting all forms that each agency uses. The Governor would like to have all forms go through one software program by July 2015. The Board reviewed the list of forms that was submitted.

They had a brief discussion how this plan would not work for most of the Board forms and would cost the Board more money in copies and mailing. This information was noted on the submitted form.
- e. Budget
The Board reviewed a copy of the submitted maintenance budget for FY 16-17. It was noted that a new line had been added; Class 27 budget line which is a direct to DoIt line. It was explained that cuts were made in travel reimbursement and personnel to accommodate this new line.
- f. John Cameron
Chairwoman Duncan took a moment to recognize John Cameron as GAL and contributions toward program. GAL Cameron unfortunately recently passed away. He had been serving as a GAL since 1995 and became certified through the Board in 2007. He was a teacher at the GAL trainings. He was a great asset to the program and will be missed.

7. CEU Requests

The Board reviewed the following CEU requests: Nervous and Unhappy: Teen Anxiety and Depression, Our Diverse Community, You are What You Say, Supporting Students with Asperger's and other Socially Challenging Disorders and Wellness Finding New Directions for Youth and Yourself. M. Luneau made a motion to approve all the courses as submitted. S. Duncan seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

8. Non-Public Session

M. Luneau moved to go into non-public session for the purposes of discussing a matter which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a person or persons who is not a member of this body pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c). B. Paine seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

*Susan Duncan, Aye, Alan Cantor, Aye, Dave Robbins, Aye,
Betsy Paine, Aye, Master Henrietta Luneau, Aye*

M. Luneau made a motion to go back into public session. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.

D. Robbins made a motion to adjourn. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 5-0. Motion passes.